

# **CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**Televised Meeting — May 9, 2002**

**Public Safety Building Council Chambers**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Jill Schmidt, Una McAlinden, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Heidi Houghton, Cara Byrne, Kay Tarapolsi; Youth Advocates Jamie Bakun, David Backes

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Commissioners Joe Adams, Regina Riley; Youth Advocate Jane Butterfield

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nik Staritchenok, Cris Berns, Hugh Anderson, Heather Jensen

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**PUBLIC HEARING:** Fire Station 11 Art Project: No public testimony presented.

## **AGENDA**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the *televised* regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building Council Chambers.

Notations: Schmidt welcomed David Backes as RAC's new youth advocate. Introductions by Commissioners and staff were given.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of March 14, 2002 RAC minutes as submitted by:**

Commissioner McAlinden

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

**Motion for approval of April 11, 2002 RAC minutes as submitted by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

### **III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Discussion Items:

- Cultural Congress
- Outdoor Sculpture

Under Reports:

- *Write Out Loud!* report postponed to next month

### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Hugh Anderson, member and representative of the Eastside Symphony presented a background and history of the organization:

- 10 years in the Redmond community
- 40 non-professional adult musicians under a professional conductor
- Three free concerts per year in Redmond (three also in Bellevue)
- Additional concerts/programs at Christmas
- Future plans and concert schedule: June 2 at 3:00 p.m. in Redmond (June 1 in Bellevue); concert at Kirkland Performance Center
- Non-profit organization sources of funding: players, businesses, gifts and matching funds from corporations, grants from Commissions such as RAC

### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Multi-Media Presentation**

Nik Staritchenok and Cris Berns presented the multi-media program they designed for the RAC web site showing art in Redmond. Berns noted that four pictures would yet be added to the end of the show. Berns asked for suggestions and other high-quality photos.

Commissioners expressed enthusiastic approval of the presentation, and suggested the following:

- Add arts education training pictures
- Use past pictures of the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit
- Pictures and information on *Write Out Loud!*
- Add a credits page

Four photos of each topic may be given to Skillingstead who will forward them to Berns.

Berns asked Commissioners whether or not they would first want a stand-alone presentation (without interaction), which would take more work; or, first put it on the Internet (with interaction). Staritchenok advocated putting it first on the web because the interactive version is ready now. Skillingstead added that more people could access it if it was on the web. Commissioners concurred. An announcement would be placed in *Focus* magazine that the stand-alone version would be forthcoming.

Schmidt asked that all photos be sent to Berns as soon as possible in order for the Commission to have an estimated timeline from him. Skillingstead noted the interactive showing could be used to present to City Council. She will keep Berns apprised of the meeting time.

**Motion for approval of the multi-media presentation to first be put on the RAC web site by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi  
**Second by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie  
**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

## **B. Leary Way Bridge Mural – Concept Approval**

Postponed to a future meeting.

## **C. Arts Plan Survey Questions – Recommendation**

Houghton announced that Parks and Recreation would proceed with their informal survey in the *Focus* magazine, which would include general art-related questions used in the past. Skillingstead will add a question regarding facilities, e.g., what kind of cultural facility Redmond should have. Byrne also had e-mailed suggested questions to Houghton; Houghton will forward them to Skillingstead.

Skillingstead reported that Karen Brandon, City grant writer, will re-write and re-submit the Rockefeller Grant to request funding for a complete cultural arts plan update. Until then, the plan would be tied in with the PRO Plan update.

Schmidt noted that survey questions could be added later in the *Focus* ArtsQuest page. Skillingstead added that one of the Cultural Plan consultants, Christine Weed, has volunteered to help compose an initial questionnaire.

## **D. Derby Days Booth – Saturday, July 13, 2002**

Schmidt summarized past year's Derby Days participation that has included a RAC booth, brochure handouts (e.g. Arts in the Parks, Annual Report, etc.), and a parade walk with a performing artist. She noted the booth need not always be staffed, but Commissioners could be available to answer questions from the public.

This year, hours needed to staff the booth would be approximately 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., only on one day, 7/13/02. Commissioners could take shifts.

Commissioners offered these ideas to promote arts at the event:

- Provide interactive educational training
- Use a visual art project to draw in the public
- Display fire station art proposals
- A sidewalk chalk-art interactive event
- Table tents of committee bios, etc., on the booth table
- Decorate the van to publicize RAC and pass out brochures as they walk along side the van in the parade
- Request last year's performing artist, Janet Rayer, on stilts with a different costume
- Omit the van; Commissioners walk behind the artist on stilts
- Have Janet Rayer on stilts, walking around the booth to attract the public
- Contract an artist to do the sidewalk chalk
- Provide a coloring page of City art for kids to color
- Use the bronze cast pieces from MOC for rubbing
- Provide traffic calming artwork for show
- Provide more "kid oriented" events to emphasize art education
- Decorate van with arts education theme

**Motion for approval to participate in Derby Days in the parade with Janet Rayer, and have a booth by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie

**Second by:** Commissioner Houghton

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

Commissioners will discuss the event details at a future meeting. They may e-mail their ideas to Skillingstead.

#### **E. Fire Station 11 Art Project – Finalist Recommendation**

Schmidt reported that the Fire Station 11 artwork selection committee had made a recommendation. The recommended art has been on display at various City locations for public comments. As a result of those comments, Schmidt would like the Visual Arts Committee to propose a compromised alternate recommendation to bring to RAC next meeting.

Schmidt will discuss options with Lieutenant Andy Hail. At the next Visual Arts Committee meeting scheduled for May 23, 7:00 p.m. at ORSCC, members will propose the alternative plan.

Skillingstead reported that the public input process has been extended and the artwork will appear at the following locations:

- The Public Safety Building until May 14
- Redmond Town Center Police substation from May 14 to May 22

Skillingstead will be meeting with Fire station staff for their input as well.

These four finalists were originally selected:

1. Mary Beth Llorens: a stained-glass mosaic water wall. Additional landscaping or art such as a molded, mosaic/tile-covered bench could also be commissioned, should enough funds be raised through the Fire Department.
2. Stuart Nakamura: a granite stainless steel work that has a plaza.
3. Judy Phipps: a bronze firefighter. Phipps would use a Redmond firefighter as a model.
4. Brad Miller: Redmond Life & Death Beacons. This artwork would address the building hose tower, instead of the front lawn.

Skillingstead noted that through a news release the public would be invited to the Visual Arts Committee meeting. The Committee's recommendation to the RAC will be on the June RAC agenda. Following RAC's endorsement, the recommendation would be forwarded to City Council for approval.

## **F. Redmond Arts Awards Nomination Selection**

Schmidt perceived that the Redmond Arts Awards nomination should be better promoted in the future. There was no response from the *Focus* article announcement. She recommended using a better name to attract nominees, e.g., "Art of the City," and to start earlier in the year next time.

Nominations by Commissioners and staff:

- 1) Jeff Johnson
  - Art Education Committee initial member
  - Editorial cartoonist
  - Artist in residence
  - Art docent in Redmond Elementary
  - Helped organized Redmond El's participation in Student Holiday Expressions
  - Art in residency for art curriculum pilot program
- 2) SecondStory Repertory
  - Mark Waldstein and Stan Gill gave hours of volunteer time
  - Brought SecondStory as an organization to enhance Redmond
- 3) Washington Academy of Performing Arts
  - An academy of arts for all ages
  - Volunteers have done fund raising, etc.
  - Provides rich opportunity for Redmond
  - Only performing arts high school in Western Washington
  - Brought more resources through grants received
  - Highly recognized conservatory program
  - Eight years in existence with the community
- 4) Mary Ellen Hundley
  - Organized as volunteer on arts activity events, e.g. ArtSplash
  - Provided funding for "Picture Rails" installed in ORSCC building

- Supports arts to the broader community
  - Executive director of *Ballet Bellevue*, bringing dancers to the community programs such as in Redmond
- 5) Joan Gravallis
- Initial member of Arts Education Committee
  - Began the art docent program at Einstein Elementary
  - Created artist bios and projects files
  - Proposed, wrote, and won Arts Education Grant, “Unite through Arts” with 8-10 artists in residency
  - Submitted Einstein’s principal for *Poncho Award* and won for the “Unite through Arts”
- 6) Judy Hewitt
- Maintains community art bulletin board weekly at the Senior Center and ORSCC (1997 to present)
  - Her work provides a good community resource for artists and community in and outside Redmond
- 7) Cris Berns and Nick Staritchenok (possibly nominate next year after project completion)
- Creators of the RAC multi-media presentation
- 8) Jill Dalager
- Administers the *Celebrate Redmond Foundation*
  - Member of the Arts Education Committee
  - Student Holiday Expressions in *Redmond Lights*
  - Supports arts in the schools
  - Community work with *Redmond Lights*

Voting took place on the above nominations. The three winning artists recommended to receive the Redmond Arts Award created by Kevin Pettelle were Jeff Johnson, Judy Hewitt, and Washington Academy of Performing Arts.

**Motion for approval of Jeff Johnson, Judy Hewitt, and Washington Academy of Performing Arts to receive the 2002 Redmond Arts Awards by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

Skillingstead reported that the award information and City logo would be on the backside of the bronze hands art piece. She will contact the winners and notify them of the award date. Since Arts in the Parks begins in June, a June 18 date is preferred over a July 2 date for Redmond Arts Day; the date is yet to be finalized.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Joint Meeting with Council Update**

Schmidt announced no date has been set as yet for the joint meeting with City Council. She encouraged Commissioners to continue to prepare for the meeting. The new multi-media presentation should be ready to show to Council members.

Skillingstead is coordinating with Bonnie Matson to secure an available date with Council, probably in June or July.

## **B. Set Annual Planning Retreat Date**

Schmidt noted that a planning meeting should be scheduled in June for Commissioners to discuss the agenda for the joint City Council meeting to be held sometime in June or July. Therefore, she suggested scheduling the RAC retreat for September instead. Commissioners concurred. Commissioners will select a date in June for the Council preparation meeting and the September retreat.

## **C. Visioning Program Goals**

Houghton, Chair of Nexus (Arts Funding) Committee, asked Commissioners to consider prioritizing five or six programs for presentation at the joint meeting with Council. Commissioners reviewed the program items discussed at last month's meeting.

LaBrunerie advocated creating a notebook that would list everything RAC does, and handing it to Council members after their joint meeting presentation. Schmidt suggested giving Council members just one sheet instead, listing RAC activities to keep it more simple. She offered to help design the single page.

Houghton believed all Commissioners should show their support to the committees and their programs, and be available to assist, or be present at their programs.

Schmidt announced that the Annual Report is printed and distributed. She presented copies to City Council last Tuesday. She believed this year's report more adequately communicated RAC activities. The Report can also be distributed at Derby Days.

Houghton reported that no date has been set for the next Nexus meeting as yet.

## **D. Direct Mail Fund Raising Campaign**

Houghton expressed these concerns about the direct mail fund raising campaign:

1. The current mailing list to artists and arts organizations would not be suitable.
  - There is a need to have someone work on the list.
  - McAlinden suggested inserting the ad campaign into *Focus* to be mailed to all City residents.
  - Mailing costs would need to be investigated.

2. The campaign could be competing with other arts organizations trying to raise money.

Tarapolsi reported that she attended a seminar on direct mail at the Cultural Congress, and received information that could be helpful. Marriam Barnett, the instructor, offered to give input on the RAC plan, and showing what has worked in the past that might relate to the plan. LaBrunerie suggested Commissioners decide first whether or not they would want to do the campaign, and, if so, put this topic on the September retreat agenda for discussion. Commissioners concurred.

## **E. Cultural Congress**

Byrne, Schmidt, Tarapolsi, Skillingstead, and Bettencourt attended the Cultural Congress entitled “Keeping the Arts Thriving in Challenging Times.” Byrne reported attending the Dynamic Leadership seminar where the emphasis was on looking at organizations as systems, instead of charts, i.e., looking at what they are known for and to whom they are known. There was a focus on finding the overlap of committees and goals.

Byrne recommended sending Commissioners every year to the Congress, as it provided inspiration and group sharing. She came away with ideas and ways to consider such things as what are the organization’s goals, e.g., to look at the intersections of circles to find how they overlap. Schmidt suggested a first step in the September RAC retreat discussion could be to do a system check on for what the RAC is known.

Schmidt was gratified to see from the Congress that RAC was doing a lot of things right, and doing amazing things no other Commission was doing. Byrne concurred that RAC is ahead of the curve in communicating and retreats.

Bettencourt added many themes could help RAC, for example, the successes and trouble areas of non-profit organizations, such as, becoming more programming than what they are all about. Traditional committee concepts are disappearing; groups are more successful when focusing on five major areas, but the overall mission is higher up. She was enthusiastic to learn that RAC fit their examples of success for non-profits.

Skillingstead received good information from a seminar on research and doing surveys for the Arts Plan. She will give the information to Karen Brandon, who is re-writing the Rockefeller grant.

Tarapolsi noted the lack of cultural diversity in the non-profit sector. No solutions were mentioned at the Congress as to how to bring in more cultural diversity. She reported on a solution called “Project Lead” (through United Way), a one-week session on leadership and how to be a board member for the culturally diverse. At the end of the week, a list is given of organizations where job applications could be made. She felt the time allotted was too short for the topic.



McAlinden requested attendees' handouts from the Congress.

## **VII. REPORTS**

### **A. Arts Commissioner/Committees**

#### **1. Chair and Vice Chair**

##### **a. Chairperson Schmidt**

- 1) The Annual Report is completed and distributed. The bulk mailing is being prepared.
- 2) Commissioners and Recreation staff have been invited by Councilperson Holly Plackett to go next Tuesday, May 21, to view the Asian Pacific Islanders Immigration and Internment photographs on display through Wednesday at the Safeco Building. Skillingstead scheduled with Jim McDonald, Safeco curator, who will meet with all in the Olympic Building at 5:15 p.m. He will walk them through the new construction art projects. Commissioners will receive an invitation to Safeco's art dedication in June. Skillingstead will e-mail the Tuesday invitation again to Commissioners.

##### **b. Vice Chair McAlinden**

Commissioners will receive a green sheet with their agenda packets in the future for keeping track of hours beyond the meeting times.

#### **2. Visual Arts**

##### **a. Art Outside the Box**

Schmidt spoke with John at Redmond Signs to find a painter and information regarding what they can and cannot do to paint the utility boxes. Printed vinyl is being considered if it can stay on the boxes in the elements. If spray paint can be used, a white base coat would first be sprayed, then art would be painted over that.

##### **b. Fire Station 11**

The Committee will discuss a new alternate proposal at their May 23 meeting.

##### **c. Volunteer Art Gallery**

Arriba Stature, artist, has requested to have a self-maintained art gallery at the ORSCC. Details need finalizing before a further report can be given to Commissioners. Ms. Stature may attend the June RAC meeting to provide more information.

### **3. Literary Arts**

Redmond Association of the Spoken Word (RASP) held their annual *Write Out Loud!* festival, and they will bring a report to RAC next month. All events were exciting and successful reported LaBrunerie.

### **4. Arts Education**

McAlinden reported on the following:

#### **a. Art Curriculum Pilot**

The art curriculum pilot has been completed. All assessments and artwork photos are on their way to the consultant to collate results. The finalized K-second grade handbook will be given to the Lake Washington School District to prepare production for the fall K-2 teachers in the district from 28 elementary schools.

#### **b. Grant Update**

Dates for the grant results would be forthcoming this month. The request from the Washington State grant was for \$10,000. The King County Arts Commission had no grant limit, so the grant submitted was for slightly more than \$15,000, since four grades in the curriculum project would be done and the consultants would have to put in more work.

Houghton inquired as to the possibility of “selling” the curriculum program to other school districts. McAlinden responded that the City and the school district jointly own the curriculum project. The district would possibly charge a nominal fee for the handbook, and those revenues would be funneled back into the arts programming to support the schools.

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) staff created a support web site for the teachers, which is [www.artspartnership.lkwash.wednet.edu](http://www.artspartnership.lkwash.wednet.edu). Skillingstead and McAlinden expressed kudos to the creators of the web site. Sample artwork, City sculpture, and skills and techniques that are in the handbook can be viewed on the site. Teachers are using the site to know what the project is going to create, helping toward the end goal. Part of the site is for children to see, also.

#### **c. Next Arts Education Committee meeting**

The Committee's 2-year anniversary meeting (i.e. from the initial kick-off) will be held June 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the ORSCC.

**d. Presentation to LWSD School Board**

Byrne and McAlinden have been asked to speak to the LWSD school board on June 3 to present what the Arts Education Committee has accomplished over the last 18 months with the curriculum project. Recognition and certificates will be presented to all those who have helped with the program.

**e. Artist in Residency**

Byrne reported on the artist in residency for the pilot curriculum project at all six Redmond schools. Jeff Johnson, artist, did a successful job with the children presenting them with a line lesson, "The Illustrated Alphabet."

**f. Semi-annual Spring Art Docent Meeting**

The semi-annual spring art docent meeting will be held Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at ORSCC, Room 104. Docents from the six Redmond schools will meet and share their projects. Jill Dalager, Executive Director for *Celebrate Redmond Foundation*, will speak on community display opportunities.

**5. Grants**

Tarapolsi reported on three applications received for the Arts Education Grant (AEG):

1. SecondStory Repertory
2. Redmond Junior High Drama
3. Old Firehouse Teen Center

All applicants requested the maximum of \$1,500 each (\$4,100 is available). Riley recommended \$1,500 to both SecondStory and the Teen Center, but suggested the Redmond Junior High Drama re-submit, since she thought the application omitted the project proposal and educational goals. However, Tarapolsi noted those items were included, just on a different sheet that may have been overlooked. Therefore, Tarapolsi submitted a different recommendation.

Tarapolsi thought the Teen Center should be given different consideration, since it already receives funds from Redmond Parks. Skillingstead clarified, however, that it would not be a concern, since they are specifically asking for their art program. Bettencourt suggested the Teen Center apply for the grant, having a community partner as the lead in the project that would benefit the City. Last year, program costs were \$4,800. Normally, the Teen Center would not apply directly to a Commission for City funds without a partner. Kate Becker offered to

partner with an organization in the community. Tarapolsi suggested they could re-apply under the partner name, or the Commission could give them the grant with the condition that they get a partner. Bettencourt also recommended following up with a policy. Commissioners agreed to make a policy in the future.

Tarapolsi recommended the following:

1. \$1,500 for the Teen Center
2. \$1,500 to the Redmond Junior High Drama program as a first-time applicant with a youth program (the other \$1,500 they need is coming from a matching fund)
3. \$1,100 to SecondStory

**Motion for approval to fund \$1,500 of the AEG to the Teen Center art project with the condition added that they find a partner by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

Tarapolsi will call Becker to let her know of the added condition. Skillingstead noted the condition would be included in the contract as well.

**Motion for approval to fund \$1,500 of the AEG to Redmond Junior High School Drama program by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Houghton

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

**Motion for approval to fund \$1,100 of the AEG to SecondStory Repertory by:** Commissioner Byrne

**Second by:** Commissioner Houghton

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

## **6. Performing Arts**

Skillingstead reported that almost all programs are scheduled for Arts in the Parks. She will e-mail dates to Commissioners when finalized.

## **7. Arts Funding – NEXUS**

None.

## **8. Youth Advocate**

Schmidt reported that at the Tuesday night Council meeting, youth advocates from boards and commissions were recognized by the Mayor. RAC was the first commission/board to have a youth advocate added to their Commission.

Schmidt noted that there would be an overlap period with incoming RAC youth advocates in order to have them active by September.

## **9. Marketing**

None.

## **B. Staff Reports**

Skillingstead reported on the following:

### **1. King County Performance Network Bookings**

Adams attended the King County Performance Network meeting and recommended two groups to RAC for the Winter Performance Series:

- 1) Circus Contraption (an acrobatic group)
- 2) One World Theatre: Wonderful Life

Skillingstead will book these groups, and Commissioners will vote on them as an action item at their June meeting.

### **2. Mailings**

Mailings (postcards) were sent to 350 artists for the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. The Annual Report will be mailed shortly.

### **3. King County Arts Commission Sustained Support Grant**

RAC received \$12,000 from the King County Sustained Support Grant this year. Staff will allocate the funds to the programs. After apportioning to the standard programs, left over amounts will be reported next month.

### **4. RAC Vacancy**

Skillingstead encouraged Commissioners to be recruiting candidates to fill the RAC vacancy seat.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by:** Commissioner LaBrunerie  
**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi  
**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary: Pamela K. Maybee, *Call A Typist*

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:**  
**June 13, 2002**  
**Old Redmond School House Community Center**  
**7:00 p.m.**